Dividend paid by VSNL to Exchequer

*113. SHRIJIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the amount of divident paid by VSNL to Government exchequer during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): The amount of divident paid by VSNL to Government exchequer during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as follows:-

1999-2000 — Rs. 40.26 crores

2000-2001 — Rs. 754.82 crores

Funds under Technology Support Scheme

*114. DR. C. NARAYANAREDDY:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry provided funds to some institutions under the scheme of Technological support;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of work turned out by these institutions with particular reference to development of software in the Indian languages; and

(d) what steps Government propose to speed up the development process?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)These Institutiosn include: Academic Institutions like IITs. Universities etc. and R&D Societies such as Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Electronics Research and Development Centre (ER&DCI), CEERI.

(c) Under Technology Development for Indian Language (TDIL) programme, development of Software in Indian Languages include:

— GIST technology to facilitate multi-lingual processing
— Internet enabled Word processor (LEAP)
— Spell Checkers
— OCR Software
— Machine Assisted Translation System
— Localized LINUX (INDIX)
— Text to speech software
— Corpus Management Tools
— Authoring tools

(d) For speeding up the development process:

— the projects are monitored periodically.

— ZOPP workshops of the TOIL Resource Centres are conducted to evolve consensus on objectives, strategy, sharing of R&D.

— Language Technology Business Meet is organized to facilitate dialog between Language Technology developers and industry aiming at transfer of technology / collaboration development.

Demarche to Pakistan to Handover Criminals

*115. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a fresh Demarche to Pakistan on the 1 lth of February, 2002, asking them to hand-over 20 criminals and terrorists sought by India;

(b) whether it is a fact that-most of the 20 criminals have Interpol red comer notices against them; and

(c) if so, what pressure, at diplomatic level, Government have applied so far on Pakistan if it is not willing to follow the example of the United Arab Emirates for handing over such terrorists to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) On 31st December 2001, Government handed' over t& Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law who have given safe haven in Pakistan. Government asked the Pakistani